

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

Teacher's notes

Round the World in Eighty Days

by Jules Verne



SUMMARY

The story begins in the safe, staid setting of a gentleman's club in London where things have probably not changed for a hundred years, but the theme of the novel is constant change. Mr. Phileas Fogg bets his fellow club members that he can go around the world in eighty days and, of course, he does it, returning in the nick of time to win his bet.

On his travels, with his faithful servant, Passepartout, he has adventures in Egypt, India, Hong Kong, China, Japan, the U.S.A. and even in Liverpool. Fogg is pursued by a dogged policeman, Inspector Fix, who is convinced that he is a bank robber, and it is Fix who, on several occasions, slows down Fogg's inexorable progress around the world.

There are some other diversions from the headlong rush to win the bet. The travellers take time out to rescue a widow, Aouda, who is about to be subjected to the Indian custom of suttee – burning on her husband's funeral pyre. Later, in America, Fogg goes deep into Indian territory to rescue Passepartout.

Just when it looks like Fogg might make it in time, Fix arrests him in Liverpool and delays him, apparently crucially, before discovering that the real robber has been apprehended in the absence of the travellers. Fogg arrives disconsolately back in London, but realises that his love for Aouda means more to him than being rich or winning the bet. Then Passepartout discovers that the date is one day earlier than they all thought – they 'gained' a day when they crossed the International Date line west to east.

ABOUT JULES VERNE

Jules Verne is sometimes considered to be the father of science fiction but in *Round the World in Eighty Days* he shows that he is also the master of the 'road' type story, in which the action is constantly moved forward by the physical movement of the main characters from one place to another.

Jules Verne studied law in Paris then became secretary of the Theatre Lyrique before working as a stockbroker. His first fictional works were plays and

the words for operas. Then, at the age of 34, he wrote the adventure story *Five Weeks in a Balloon* which was quickly followed by the science fiction classic *Journey to the Center of the Earth*, published in 1864.

Verne's skill was to weave an exciting adventure story around a fantastical idea which was supported by scientific knowledge or speculation. Verne was fascinated by exploration – he even wrote a history of exploration from Phoenician times to the mid-19th century. In all his famous works, his characters use the latest 'inventions' to explore the moon, the ocean depths, the centre of the earth or, as in this story, simply to travel, farther and faster than ever before. Amongst the inventions which he anticipated in his writings are flights into outer space, submarines, helicopters, air conditioning, guided missiles, and motion pictures.

BACKGROUND AND THEMES

This is truly a rite of passage novel. The real passage is a most amazing one – around the world in 80 days. But Fogg also makes a long metaphorical journey, from the cold, punctilious, distant character at the beginning to a man who realises that wealth is not as important to him as the love of Aouda, or the friendship of Passepartout.

He seems to have only one thought at the beginning of the novel, but he is diverted from his purpose when someone is in danger, even, in the case of Aouda on their first meeting, a stranger, albeit beautiful.

His true victory at the end of the story is not winning the bet, but winning the hand of the woman he loves.

The minor theme is, inevitably in a Verne novel, the power of science. In this case, science in various forms of new transport is harnessed to shrink the world. However, perhaps the author recognises the hubris of man's apparent triumph over nature with the various natural disasters which spoil Fogg's carefully laid plans at times.

E

1

2

3

4

5

6

ELEMENTARY

ROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS



Teacher's notes

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader and supplement those exercises. For supplementary exercises covering shorter sections of the book, see the photocopiable Student's Activities pages of this Factsheet. These are primarily for use with class readers but, with the exception of the discussion and pair/groupwork activities, can also be used by students working alone in a self-access centre.

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Put students into groups and ask them to discuss these questions.

- 1 Who were the first people to go round the world?
- 2 When did they do it?
- 3 How did they do it?
- 4 What is the fastest way you could go round the world today?
- 5 How long would it take?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

You can use the following activity after each section or even each chapter.

Put students into groups and ask them to answer these questions.

- 1 Where did they visit in this chapter/section?
- 2 How long did it take?
- 3 How did they travel?
- 4 What problems did they face?
- 5 How much money did Fogg spend?

Chapters 1–4

- 1 Put students into pairs to discuss the following question.
What should you pack in one small bag for a journey round the world?
Elicit answers and make a composite list on the board of the best set of things.
- 2 Put students into pairs to role play a conversation between Fogg and a person who supports the idea of burning a widow on her husband's funeral pyre.
- 3 Ask students to work in groups to discuss these questions.
 - (a) Are there any customs in your society that would seem very strange to a foreigner?
 - (b) What is the origin of the custom?
 - (c) Do you think it should continue today?

Chapters 5–8

- 1 Put students into groups to work the story of Aouda's rescue from the point of view of Passepartout. They should arrive at a first person

narrative of his actions. Elicit two or three versions and choose the best.

- 2 This activity covers the end of this section and the beginning of the next.
Put students into groups to work out how Fogg, Aouda, Fix and Passepartout got to Japan. They can work it out from the information from Chapter 8 and Chapter 9.

Chapters 9–12

Put students into groups to discuss the following points.

- 1 How has Fogg changed during the adventure?
- 2 Which events changed him?
- 3 How will he be different in the future?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

Put students into pairs to work out the answer to these questions:

- 1 What did Fogg spend money on during the journey?
- 2 How much did he spend?
Elicit ideas from the pairs and build up a composite list on the board.

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practised in the 'Before You Read' sections of exercises at the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

Chapters 1–4

- bet** (n) a bet is when you try to win money by guessing the result of a race, game, etc.
- club** (n) an organization for people who share an interest or enjoy similar activities, or the building where they meet.
- captain** (n) someone who is in charge of a ship or plane
- elephant** (n) a very large grey animal with big ears and a trunk
- guide** (n) someone whose job is to show a place to tourists
- passport** (n) a small official book that proves who you are and what country you are a citizen of
- port** (n) an area or town where ships arrive and leave from
- railway** (n) a track for trains to travel along
- servant** (n) someone whose job is to live in another person's house and do cleaning and cooking, etc.
- stamp** (n) a small piece of paper that you buy and stick on a letter before you post it
- temple** (n) a building where people in some religions go to pray, sing, etc.
- thief** (n) someone who steals things
- timetable** (n) a list of times and dates when things are planned to happen
- warrant** (n) an official document that allows the police to search inside someone's house or arrest someone, etc.

Chapters 5–8

- bail** (n) money paid so that someone can leave prison until their trial
- engine** (n) the part of a boat, car, plane etc that makes it move
- prison** (n) a building where criminals are kept as a punishment

Chapters 9–12

- buffalo** (n) a type of cattle with long curved horns that lives in Africa and Asia
- moment** (n) a very short period of time
- soldier** (n) a member of the army, especially someone who is not an officer



Student's activities

Round the World in Eighty Days



Photocopiable

Students can do these exercises alone or with one or more other students. Pair/group-only exercises are marked.

Activities before reading the book

- Look at the map opposite page 1. In pairs, discuss how you think Phileas Fogg might travel on each stage of the journey. Will he travel by train, by boat, etc.
- Do you think Phileas Fogg can go round the world in eighty days?

Activities while reading the book

Chapters 1–4

- Is each sentence about Phileas Fogg or Jean Passepartout? Write F or P in each case. All the information is in Chapter 1.
 - He went to the Reform Club every day.
 - He was a cold man.
 - His name was French.
 - He was a fireman.
 - He was a strong man.
 - He wanted to be a servant.
 - People said he was the quietest man in Britain.
 - He wanted to live quietly.
 - He always went to bed at midnight.
- Complete these sentences about the information in Chapter 2. Use a word from the box in each case.

clothes days detectives evening pounds room
story thief things timetable world

- Phileas Fogg and his five friends talked about a newspaper ...
 - A ... took £55,000 from the Bank of England.
 - 'We'll catch him,' said Ralph. 'The best ... are at every port.'
 - 'We know that he is tall and he wears expensive ...'
 - 'But the ... is a big place,' said Stuart.
 - 'It was a big place,' said Fogg. 'You can go round it in eighty ... now.'
 - 'Fogg's right,' said Ralph. 'Today's Times has a ... for a journey round the world.'
 - 'It's all right on paper but a lot of ... can happen in eighty days.'
 - 'I have twenty thousand ... in the bank,' said Fogg. 'I'll bet all of it that I can go round the world in 80 days.'
 - 'I have to be back in this ... in the Reform Club – (k) – on Saturday 21st December at 8.45 in the ...'
- Why does Detective Fix think that Fogg is the thief? Work in pairs. Think of some reasons.

Read Chapter 3 and check your ideas

- Who said or thought these things in Chapter 4?
 - The train from Bombay to Calcutta leaves at 8 o'clock.
 - This temple is really lovely.
 - The thief will have to stay in India.
 - Everybody get out of the train please.
 - But your company sells tickets from Bombay to Calcutta.
 - There's an elephant over there.
 - Do you want a guide?
 - They are taking a dead man to the temple.
 - We'll get her out of here.
 - But, Mr. Fogg, the bet ...
 - I will help you when it gets dark.

Chapters 5–8

- Complete these sentences about the information in Chapter 5. Use a preposition or adverb from the box in each case.

down in inside next of on out over round
through to up with

- Fogg and the guide heard ... the trees the noise of people singing and shouting.
 - They could see the temple, white ... the dark night.
 - Some men with guns sat ... it and watched.
 - The young woman was ... the temple.
 - The dead man was ... top of some wood to the right.
 - 'When the sun comes ...,' said the guide –
 - '– they will put the woman ... to her husband and start the fire.'
 - 'We have to get the young woman ... of there,' said Fogg.
 - The sun came up and the people went to the wood ... the dead man on top.
 - Some men brought Aouda out ... the temple and put her on the wood.
 - Some men brought fire ... the wood.
 - Then suddenly people fell ... on the ground.
 - Passepartout carried Aouda down through the fire and walked ... the people on the ground.
- Some words in each of these sentences are wrong. Can you find them and correct them? All the information is in Chapter 5.
 - 'The train journey to Calcutta is about a week and half,' said the guide.

ELEMENTARY

ROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS



Student's activities

- (b) Fogg took a guide at the railway station for Aouda.
 (c) He sent Passepartout into the town for food for the young woman.
 (d) Before they got on the train, Fogg paid the elephant.
 (e) 'That's your money,' he said ' but would you like the girl?'
 (f) Aouda was afraid of her husband.
 (g) 'I'll take you to England,' said Fogg, 'and you can stay there.'
 (h) 'Oh, thank you,' said Aouda. 'I have a husband there.'
 (i) The train got to Calcutta at 7.00 and Fogg had five hours before the plane left for Hong Kong.
- 3 How did Fix feel about each of these statements from Chapter 6? Why?
- (a) You will have to stay in prison.
 (b) You can have bail.
 (c) Bail will be one thousand pounds each.
 (d) I'll pay.
- 4 Are these statements about the information in Chapter 7 true or false?
- (a) The warrant was on its way from Bombay to Hong Kong.
 (b) Fix was on the ship with Fogg and Passepartout.
 (c) Fix is following Fogg and Passepartout.
 (d) Fix is working for the five men at the Reform Club.
 (e) Passepartout told Fogg about Fix.
 (f) 'The Carnatic' left Yokohama before they arrived.
 (g) Fogg went out and found Aouda's uncle.
 (h) Passepartout was happy when Fogg said Aouda could come to England.
 (i) Passepartout told Fogg about the ship leaving early.
 (j) Passepartout said to Fix, 'You are working for those five men from the Reform Club.'
 (k) Fix put something in Passepartout's drink and left him in the bar.

Chapters 9–12

- 1 Discuss this question in pairs.
 Why does Passepartout say he will help Fix?
- 2 Match these questions (a–j) and answers (i–x) about the information in Chapter 10.
- (a) Why did Passepartout buy guns for the railway journey?
 (b) How long was the journey time from San Francisco to New York.
 (c) When did the ship leave New York for Liverpool?
 (d) Why did they have to stop for three hours on the first day?
 (e) What did the Indians want to take from the train?
 (f) How did the Indians try to stop the train?
 (g) Why did Passepartout have to climb to the engine?
 (h) Why did the Indian's run away?
 (i) What happened to Passepartout?

- (j) What ship did Fogg want to catch in New York?
 (i) 11th December.
 (ii) Because the Sioux Indians were dangerous.
 (iii) Because the soldiers came from Fort Kearney.
 (iv) Because there were thousands of buffaloes walking in front of the train.
 (v) Everybody's money.
 (vi) Seven days.
 (vii) Somebody had to get to the engine and stop the train.
 (viii) 'The China'.
 (ix) The Indians took him away but Phileas Fogg and some soldiers brought him back.
 (x) They killed the train driver.
- 3 Match the sentences (a–g) and replies (i–vii) from Chapter 11.
- (a) Are you leaving New York Captain?
 (b) Where are you going?
 (c) Can you take us with you?
 (d) Do you take things fast?
 (e) Will you take us to Bordeaux? I can give you two thousand dollars.
 (f) Where are we?
 (g) You only want the wood. I'll have the engine, the ...
 (i) For each person?
 (ii) In an hour.
 (iii) No, I don't take people.
 (iv) Oh, yes. I'm only buying the wood.
 (v) Seven hundred and seventy miles from Liverpool.
 (vi) To Bordeaux.
 (vii) Yes, very fast. 'The Henrietta' does twelve miles an hour.
- 4 Put the events from Chapter 12 in the correct order.
- (a) Fogg arrived at the Reform Club just before 8.45 on Saturday, 80 days after leaving England.
 (b) Fogg paid for a train to take him to London.
 (c) Fogg ran to the Reform Club.
 (d) Fogg sent Passepartout to Mr. Wilson at the church.
 (e) Fogg told Aouda that he loved her.
 (f) Fogg, Aouda and Passepartout arrived at Liverpool station
 (g) Fogg, Aouda and Passepartout left the police station in Liverpool.
 (h) Passepartout ran back from the church and told Fogg that it was only Saturday.
 (i) The London train left Liverpool station.
 (j) The train arrived in London at 8.50.

Activities after reading the book

Work in pairs. Look at the map opposite page 1. What, if anything, happened to Fogg and the others at each place on the map? Look back at the text to check your ideas.

